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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
10 July 1971

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Moroccan Situation Report No. 2

(As of 0900 EDT)

1. Royal forces appear to have the situation under control with only the royal palace in Rabat still in rebel hands. The King's troops claim to have retaken Rabat radio station, the army headquarters, the ministry of interior and a United Nations building. Loyalist tanks are in position at strategic locations in the capital. Moroccan airfields were opened at 0200 EDT (0600 GMT) but Rabat flights are reportedly being diverted to Tangier although the US Embassy reports as of 0600 EDT (1000 GMT) that Tangier is closed. The situations in Tangier and Casablanca have remained normal.

2. Reuters reports that small weapons fire was again heard in Rabat at 0600 (1000 GMT) after a lull of several hours. Military action appears to have centered around the royal palace where a government offensive was expected at daybreak. Press reports indicate that remaining insurgents may be holding some high ranking army officers as hostages.

3. King Hassan, who is now at the royal Palace Des Hotes in Souissi on the outskirts of Rabat, has made an address over Moroccan Radio in which he claimed that General Madbouh (now dead), director of the royal military cabinet, and ten other conspirators tricked loyal army cadets at the

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Ahermoumou Academy into attacking Skhirat Palace in the belief that Hassan's life was in danger. The King confirmed that he was held prisoner for two and a half hours before being released by loyalist cadets. The King claims that the army remains loyal.

4. Moroccan army troops have also occupied the Libyan embassy in Rabat. Libyan Radio had earlier broadcast encouragement to the rebels and promised support against "counter revolutionaries." Libyan President Qadhafi was reported to be in touch with Algeria, but according to Moroccan Radio, Algerian President Boumediene has expressed his full solidarity with the King. Lebanese and Jordanian leaders have also cabled their support to the King, and the Egyptian press reports of the situation appear to be straight forward. There is no other information on the public positions of other governments in the area.

5. The Moroccan Information Ministry has announced that the insurgents numbered about 2,000 and that casualties consisted of 30 persons killed and 108 injured at Shkirat palace and about 70 killed in Rabat. In addition to General Madbouh, those killed include General Gharbaoui, the King's chief aide-de-camp; ex-Premier Bahnini; General Bachir Bouali, the inspector general of the armed forces; and Colonel Ababou, the commander of the Ahermoumou Academy.

6. A US Embassy situation report as of 0600 EDT (1000 GMT) states that [redacted] there is some uncertainty as to who is in control of the country. Some sources have interpreted the King's act of giving powers to General Oufkir as meaning that Oufkir has taken over and the King has in effect abdicated. The embassy doubts this, however, and the King's brother stated by telephone that the King is in full control.

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